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The

Josephine M. Bixby
Memorial Hospital

for

Women and Children

Kitgang, China



The Josephine M. Bixby Memorial Hospital

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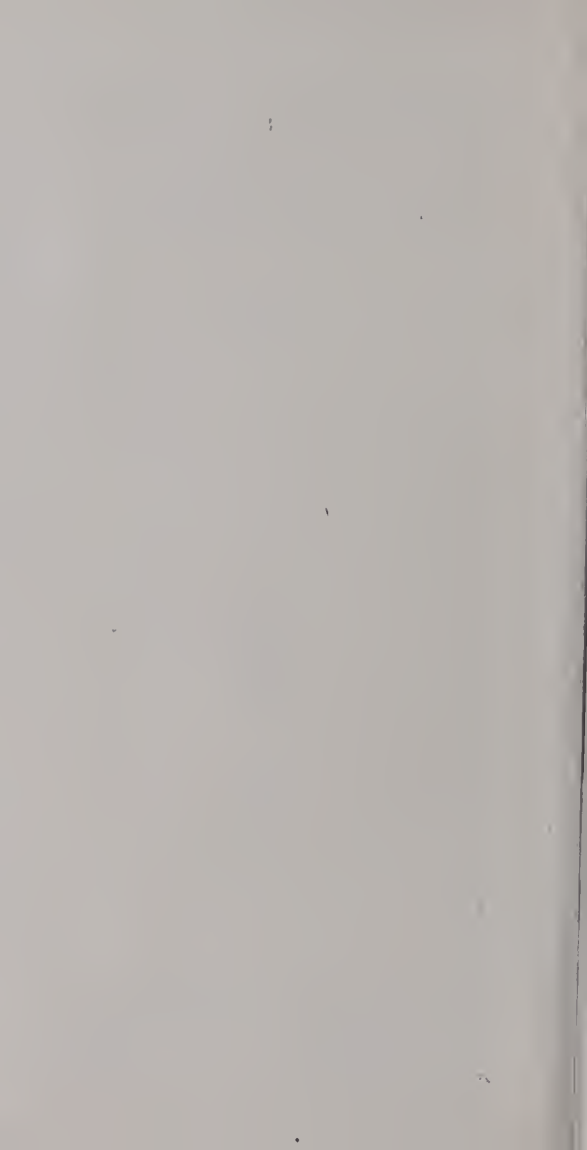
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
KIT YANG, CHINA



WOMAN'S BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SOCIETY OF THE WEST

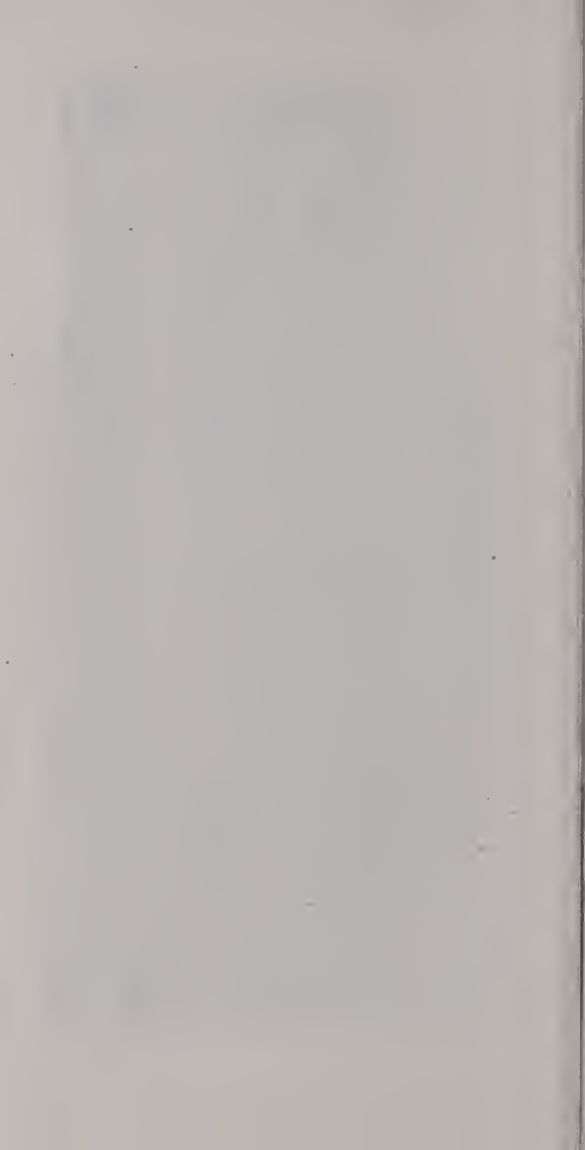
450 E. 30th Street,

Chicago, Ill.





The Josephine M. Bixby Memorial Hospital.



The Josephine M. Bixby Hospital

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

In Memoriam

The Kityang Hospital is the most fitting memorial possible to her whose name it bears. She had planned to call it "The True Doctrine Hospital," but when the glad day of its dedication and her fruition proved also to be the closing day of her labors there and her passing to her reward followed so swiftly, no other name could be thought of than that it bears, for she had given her life for it, and it is her memorial.

Dr. Bixby was an Iowa girl. Converted at sixteen, she soon determined to give her life to the foreign work. Declining all proffered aid she maintained herself for two years in the Training School for Nurses, two years in the Woman's Medical College and some time in the Moody Institute, all in Chicago.

She sailed from San Francisco October 16, 1894, and reached Swatow, China, November 8th. Here she commenced the study of the Chinese language and took charge of some patients in connection with Dr. Scott. Together they treated more than a thousand patients a week, Dr. Bixby attending specially to the eye and ear patients. And in a little more than a year she assumed charge at Kityang. Here amid privations and dif-

ficulties, work that demanded a man's strength, with none but native assistants, whom she had trained, sometimes alone at the station and taking charge of other's work during their furloughs, she wrought and planned and hoped and accomplished for eleven years. Then came the few months of suffering and on Sabbath morning, June 16th, 1907, she passed over to the true "Homeland."

A SPLENDID LOCATION

A more advantageous situation for hospital work could hardly be found.

"Kityang, a large walled city, forty miles inland from Swatow, lies in the midst of innumerable villages with idol-filled temples, heathen music and processions filling the air and streets, all telling of superstition and idolatry. In the hospital are gathered daily crowds of lame, halt and blind, waiting the attention of the foreign doctor. Here are wee babies, strapped to the back of diminutive brother or sister, with their tiny heads bobbing now this way, now that; women with tiny bound feet, wrapped in Oh, such filthy rags, came hobbling in; men with hands or feet injured; rheumatic patients, including even little children; then the eye patients, a host in themselves. See how great the opportunities, how wide the field!" Dr. Bixby writes the following:

"God has given us a great opportunity and a great responsibility in the work of establishing this 'True Doctrine Hospital' at

Kityang, the only hospital within a radius of over twenty-five miles, myself the only foreign doctor, surrounded by hundreds of villages, large and small, of which Kityang is the busy center for trade and travel. From the beginning we have never had our patients to seek; simply open the doors and they come in droves with ailments great and small, curable and incurable. We have never had to meet prejudice to any great extent in the matter of doing operations. They often come and beg to be operated upon.

Of our patients, a few are Christians, for the gospel has been preached in many of the villages; many have been casual hearers only but the greater number know little or nothing of the way of eternal salvation. Of the in-patients the majority have always been women. At dispensary we always have more men than women.

In view of the great opportunities and possibilities of the medical work at Kityang, one cannot but feel very grateful as well as very humble in being called to such a field."

HOW IT CAME TO BE

The hospital accommodations were soon outgrown, making imperative for the general work, the use of the chapel, which had previously served as a home. This change involved great inconveniences for Dr. Bixby. She herself took a room in the hospital. This was the only place in which

she might study, sleep and rest—here where the odors of Chinese cooking and clatter of Chinese women and children would always be present, for the most of the women bring their children and do their own cooking while at the hospital.

“Accordingly, she set herself valiantly to overcome these difficulties, by years of patient and persistent appeals, first for hospital enlargement, then for a new Woman’s Hospital. She spent much time and strength while in the home-land soliciting funds. Baffled by no discouragements, she presented the claims of that rapidly developing work until she won.” The money came from friends at home; missionaries on the field; \$2,000 from the Chinese themselves; from Chapels, from business men in Swatow and Kityang; \$235 in material and work from the splendid little Chinese contractor, Christian and heathen alike, who had learned the value of the hospital, and caught the spirit it embodied; but it was the generous gift of \$5,000 from a noble-hearted Minnesota woman which made Dr. Bixby’s dream a realization.

A PEN PICTURE

The picture is from Dr. Bixby’s own pen. “The hospital is indeed beautiful, and wins the admiration of all. The foundations and walls are of pounded cement. The outside of the walls has a finishing coat of smooth plaster, of a soft gray tint, which will be a lasting protection against the dampness of

this climate, and will not show mildew. The woodwork, shutters, railings, etc., are painted dark red. The floors of the first floor are of red tile, save the operating room and bath rooms, which are of Portland cement. The building is in three sections, which surround a court opening to the east. This court is thirty-seven feet wide and sixty feet deep, and will be sodded and used for recreation space. On the second floor are large verandas into which all the wards and rooms on that floor open; these are delightful fresh air spaces, and will be our tuberculosis cure. From this broad roof-covered space a charming view of the surrounding country and the river can be had. There are three large, well ventilated wards, besides smaller ones, and six private rooms, besides the rooms for the helpers. There are two operating rooms, one on the ground floor for ordinary dispensary work, and one just above it which is to be finished all in white and reserved for aseptic work only. We have the very best drains about the building that have yet been made in this part of the country. The building will accommodate seventy-five patients."

THE DEDICATION

We quote from one of our missionaries, Rev. A. F. Groesbeck, Chowyang, China.

"One of the happy events in the history of the South China Mission was the recent opening of the Woman's Hospital, Kityang.

It was one of those days when the sun comes out in all his glory to give good speed to some Christian function planned for a month beforehand. So from the heathen point of view the Lord was on our side that day. When we arrived we found hundreds of the natives there, Christian and heathen, village peasant and city official, shoulder to shoulder, listening to the exercises. The crowd of foreigners was not so large as that of the natives, but was quite as much a jumble. Men and women were there, Presbyterians and Baptists, English and American, doctor, teacher and evangelist. The Swatow business community was represented by Mr. Richardson, of the firm of Bradley & Co. Mr. Richardson is one of the oldest residents, the friend of all good works, a large donor to the hospital fund. The program was in charge of Mr. Speicher, the addresses were all in Chinese, or put into that tongue. A history of the old hospital was given, the purposes and ideals of the new were set forth. Words of greeting and God-speed were spoken by visitors, and after an address by Dr. Bixby, the keys were handed over by the contractor and the hospital was formally declared open.

"Long shall we remember her radiant joy, her complete happiness when after her splendid address the keys were given into her charge."

"After the exercises Dr. Bixby led the visitors through the building explaining its

arrangement and uses. The officials and gentry were taken in charge by Mr. Speicher, while the crowd of natives followed or wandered at will to wonder and admire. Evidently to the smallest detail the plan had been thought out, and we were beholding how well it had been wrought out in the building. Perhaps the encomium pronounced on the builder by Dr. Bixby was warranted, but most of us would prefer to praise the forethought and vigilance of the presiding genius, Dr. Bixby, that somehow compelled him to build better than his contract.

After the feast of eye and reason came that other feast without which no enterprise of importance is ever launched in China. The mandarins and other stars had a room and a banquet to themselves. The contributors and everybody else seemed somehow to find something to eat. Certainly all were crowded, noisy and happy. The foreigners were served tiffin, at the home of Dr. Bixby and Miss Ross. The steam launch blew its whistle for the third and last time, and we did not miss it, for it had waited an hour for us in honor of the occasion."

. A DAY'S WORK

Let us follow Dr. Bixby through one day's work, typical of hospital work in all our stations.

"At half past eight to nine o'clock every morning we have a singing and preaching

service, at the chapel. This is under Mr. Speicher's direction, and native preachers. At nine o'clock I repair to the hospital, and, if it is not 'dispensary day,' spend the morning with my native helpers, looking after our in-patients. If it is dispensary day, my two boys attend to the dressing and treating of eyes, before nine o'clock, and at nine the door is opened and tickets are given out as the people come in, and we dispense medicines, and treat eyes, and all sorts of maladies until noon.



Dr. Bixby at work.

"The religious service for the in-patients is held in the evening, when all who are able to do so are gathered in the waiting room, and after a song is sung, a portion of

the Gospel is read and explained by one of the helpers, then a prayer is offered, and it is no uncommon thing for several to rise before the prayer is offered, and unsolicited, request that prayer be made for them. The dispensary also is always opened with a short service.

"We often find their ignorance exceedingly dense and to make even a slight impression upon them a most discouraging task, yet the work is not hopeless for many have learned while in the hospital to read a few hymns or tracts, and have learned to pray, and have taken home with them some seed truths, which, being divine, we know cannot die."

Mrs. Giffen, of China, thus writes of her visit to the hospital:

"No day since my arrival in China has been more full of interest than one spent with Dr. Bixby in the hospital at Kityang.

"We went to the hospital for the chapel exercises conducted by the Chinese assistant at nine o'clock. The women were in the waiting rooms opening into the consulting room where the speaker stood and where we sat.

"A peculiar audience indeed! A little woman with tiny bound feet encased in embroidered pink slippers, sat upon the front bench, swinging the feet that could not reach the floor. She had a bright face, but had come to be treated for eye trouble.

"Oh, the number of different ailments that appeared during the consulting hours which followed. Most prevalent of all seemed the eye cases. Then there were wounds of all kinds to be dressed, and medicines to be given out.

"Oh, the gratitude of those physically blind who are made to see, and many who are enabled to see with the physical eyes are taught to see with the spiritual eyes as well."

Mrs. Spiecher adds, speaking of Dr. Bixby: "Nowhere could there be found a Christian worker more devoted to duty. Again and again, after a weary day in the hospital, would she travel hours by native chair or boat, to give relief to some suffering body."

PRESENT CONDITIONS

Our hospital is in temporary charge of Dr. Adkins of the South China Mission, while we wait for the competent and consecrated woman who shall take the place of our loved Dr. Bixby. We greatly rejoice that a trained nurse has gone this fall to take up the work, Miss Luciele Alice Withers, of Danville, Ill.

"She is a well equipped nurse, being graduated from the Training School for Nurses, and hospital at Danville, Ill., also from Bellevue hospital, New York.

"She heard the call to do her part of the world's work when a child; this has grown with the years and now there is great joy in her heart that the Master has



Miss Withers.

chosen her for this special service. She longs to cure souls as well as bodies."

She will be supported by the love and prayers and gifts of Minnesota young women.

AN APPEAL

For two years Kityang has been calling for a physician, but neither much prayer

nor diligent search has revealed the right woman to fill this place. Would that I could so picture the suffering and sorrow and sin and despair of our Chinese sisters, or that I could so illuminate the joy of service that some consecrated young women, strong of body, sensible in mind, cheery in disposition, well equipped with the knowledge and training of the medical profession, would be willing to take for her renown the gratitude of China's suffering daughters, and for her guerdon "bright jewels" for her crown, and would speedily say, "Here am I, Lord, send me!"

KATHERINE K. GALE.

Minneapolis, Minn., October, 1909.

